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BPA

1986 AVMA Activities Summary

Membership

AVMA's membership increased by 4.5% to 43,678 members at the end of 1986. The 2,626 new members include 2,098 new graduates. Of the 2,114 graduates of US veterinary colleges during 1986, 2,097 (99.2%) joined the AVMA. All of the graduates from 17 veterinary colleges joined the Association. The Association lost 765 members during the year, as follows: death (144), resignation (63), and nonpayment of dues (558). As shown in the table below, 78.9% of the US members are in private practice; 7.5% are active in academic disciplines and clinical specialties; 7.8% are involved in public health, regulatory, military, and other activities; 4.3% are retired; and 1.4% (mostly new graduates) are in unknown activities.

AVMA Membership According to Professional Activity—Dec 31, 1986

Bovine practice (exclusive)	418
Equine practice (exclusive)	1,958
Porcine practice (exclusive)	52
Large animal practice (all species)	1,460
Mixed practice (predominantly large animal)	4,666
Mixed practice (50-50 large and small)	3,441
Mixed practice (predominantly small animal)	4,777
Small animal practice (exclusive)	17,463
Poultry practice (exclusive)	76
Feline Practice (exclusive)	47
	34,358
Anatomy	98
Biochemistry	13
Microbiology	280
Parasitology	71
Pathology	894
Pharmacology	81
Physiology	119
Radiology	115
Toxicology	135
Surgery	274
Pathology, Avian	95
Pathology, Clinical	103
Ophthalmology	103
Nutrition	49
Clinician	432
Theriogenology	130
Anesthesiology	63
Internal Medicine	90
Cardiology	13
Dermatology	28
Neurology	16
Epidemiology	44
Oncology	21
Aquatic	18
Avian medicine	83
Ethology	2
	3,370
Veterinary public health	194
Veterinary preventive medicine	51
Teaching and research	318
Regulatory veterinary medicine	661
Administrative	140
Laboratory animal medicine	525
Wildlife, zoo and fur-bearing animals	173
Extension veterinary medicine	64
Diagnostic veterinary medicine	149
Industrial veterinary medicine	276
Military veterinary service	418
Animal technician educator	57
Unspecified	439
	3,465
Retired	1,862
Unknown professional activity	623
Total membership	43,678

Public Information

Media Relations

The AVMA prepared and distributed several news releases detailing a variety of animal, public health, and Association issues. In November, the AVMA began a program of preparing and distributing detailed news releases on food animal topics. The releases are distributed to over 5,000 agricultural writers, editors, and broadcasters.

In addition to news releases, the AVMA provided editorial and story assistance to a wide variety of media outlets including all three major television networks and Public Broadcasting System, as well as newspapers and periodicals including *The New York Times, Better Homes and Gardens, The Wall Street Journal, The Chicago Tribune, Veterinary Economics, DVM Magazine, The Bloodhorse, Equus, Modern Veterinary Practice,* and *USA Today.*

For the second year in a row, the AVMA published a *Media Guide to Veterinary Sources of Information.* The 1986 booklet was expanded to 32 pages and lists over 295 veterinary and veterinary-related organizations. Over 5,000 copies were distributed to newspapers, television stations and networks, wire services, magazines, writers, editors, and syndicates.

The AVMA continued, for a second year, to distribute *Animal Health News And Feature Tips.* This quarterly publication contained over 100 story ideas in 1986. The publication is distributed to over 4,000 newspapers, wire services, farm and consumer magazines, television and radio stations, and specialized media. News and feature tips include stories about research programs at veterinary schools, AVMA activities, seasonal health tips, information on upcoming veterinary meetings, and other news items that would be of interest to the consumer and professional press.

National Pet Week

"It All Adds Up To LOVE" was the theme for the 6th annual National Pet Week campaign held May 4–10, 1986.

Many state and local asscciations, as well as individual practitioners, de-

1986-1987 AVMA officers are (l to r) Drs. Walter Martin, Jr, treasurer; *William Ingalls,* vice president; *Richard Fink,* president-elect; *Thomas Roberts,* Executive Board chairman; *and Alton Hopkins, Jr,* president.

Economic Note

Employment of 1986 male and female graduates of US veterinary medical colleges

On the basis of the 1986 AVMA survey of 1,417 graduates of US veterinary medical colleges, it was estimated that 78% of the graduates accepted positions as private practice employees at an average annual salary of $21,205.[1]

The purpose of this report is to describe in greater detail the employment choices of 1986 veterinary medical graduates. Due to the increasing proportion of female veterinary medical college students from 33% in 1980 to nearly 51% in 1986, it is useful to compare the employment choices of female and male graduates.

Type of employment

Of the 1,417 graduates responding to the 1986 AVMA survey, 48% were women and 52% were men. Table 1 shows the proportion of graduates receiving offers of employment upon graduation. Excluding graduates entering advance study programs (graduate degrees, internships, or residencies), only 70% of the women received one or more offers of employment, compared with 85% of the men.

Regarding graduates who had accepted employment (67%), 94% of the women and 99% of the men would work full-time, whereas 6% of the women and 1% of the men would work part-time. Specifically, of the 28 graduates indicating part-time employment, 21 (75%) were women, and 7 were men (25%).

Table 1—Employment offers: Male and female, 1986

	Male (n = 671)	Female (n = 589)	Total (n = 1,260)*
Percentage of graduates who received 1 or more offers	85	70	78
Percentage of graduates who received no offers	15	30	22

*Excludes graduates entering advanced study programs.

The distribution of female and male graduates was determined according to type of full-time employment (Table 2). Approximately 73% of female graduates accepting full-time employment took positions as employees in private practice; this compares with 84% of male graduates. About 19% of the women, compared with 10% of the men, began advanced study programs.

Starting salaries

Graduates were asked to report their starting salary (on an annual basis) for full-time em-

Table 2—Full-time employment: Males and females, 1986

	Male (n = 470)	Female (n = 308)
Large animal exclusive (%)	1.5	0.6
Large animal predominant (%)	10.6	4.5
Mixed animal (%)	18.1	11.0
Small animal predominant (%)	13.6	11.4
Small animal exclusive (%)	33.8	39.9
Equine predominant (%)	6.4	5.8
University (research, teaching) (%)	0.2	1.6
Federal government (%)	. . .	0.6
Military service (%)	1.9	0.6
State/local government (%)	0.2	. . .
Industry/commercial business (%)	0.4	. . .
Advanced study (%)	10.0	19.2
Self-employed (%)	2.6	3.2
Other employment (%)	0.6	1.3

Table 3—Starting salary by type of practice: Males and females, 1986

	Male	Female
Large animal exclusive	$22,443 (7)	$20,000 (2)
Large animal predominant	$21,239 (50)	$19,036 (14)
Mixed animal	$20,499 (87)	$20,502 (36)
Small animal predominant	$21,143 (65)	$21,340 (35)
Small animal exclusive	$22,117 (162)	$20,930 (125)
Equine predominant	$23,029 (31)	$18,061 (18)
All practice types	$21,576 (402)	$20,577 (230)

*Figures in parentheses = no. of graduates reporting full-time employment and starting salary.

Prepared by J. Karl Wise, PhD, economics consultant, Wisemark Associates, PO Box 94232, Schaumburg, IL 60194

ployment. Table 3 shows that the average female graduate's starting salary as a private practice employee was $20,577, about $1,000 or 4.6% less than the average male graduate's starting salary as a private practice employee. In mixed animal and small animal predominant practices, women and men had nearly identical salaries. In large animal exclusive, small animal exclusive, and equine predominant practice, however, men would earn higher salaries on average, by amounts ranging from about $1,200 in small animal exclusive to nearly $5,000 in equine exclusive practice. Since the survey did not secure information on each graduate's responsibilities or hours worked in the new job, it is not possible to draw conclusions from these survey data about reasons associated with varying salary levels between male and female graduates.

Fringe benefits

All graduates were asked to indicate which of 12 fringe benefits would be provided by their new employer. Table 4 shows the percentage of male and female graduates who accepted full-time employment receiving each of the fringe benefits. The percentages of men and women receiving fringe benefits were similar. Approximately 60% of the women and 56% of the men would be covered by a medical/hospital plan, 75% of the women and 72% of the men would receive annual vacation leave, and 55% of both women and men would have employer-paid continuing education expenses.

Table 4—Fringe benefits of full-time employed graduates: Male and female, 1986

	Male (n=515)	Female (n=333)	Total (n=848)
Life insurance (%)	25	23	24
Medical/hospital plan (%)	56	60	57
Dental plan (%)	9	10	10
Pension plan (%)	9	6	8
Profit sharing plan (%)	14	14	14
Disability insurance (%)	28	26	27
Liability insurance (%)	53	51	52
Association dues (%)	35	37	36
Continuing education (%)	55	55	55
Annual vacation leave (%)	72	75	73
Sick leave (%)	37	35	36
Housing/apartment (%)	6	3	4

Graduate characteristics

Responding graduates provided information on personal characteristics such as age, marital status, and number of children (Table 5). The average age of both females and males was 27 years. Regarding marital status, 62% of female graduates were single, 32% were married, and 5% were divorced. Of the male graduates, 52% were single, 45% were married, and 3% were divorced. About 7% of the women and 19% of the men had one or more children.

Table 5—Personal characteristics: Male and female, 1986

	Male	Female	Male and female
Average age (yr)	27	27	27
Marital status			
Single (%)	52	62	57
Married (%)	45	32	39
Divorced (5)	3	5	4
Graduates with children (%)	19	7	13

Reference

1. Wise JK. Employment, starting salaries, and educational indebtedness of 1986 graduates of US veterinary medical colleges. *J Am Vet Med Assoc* 1987; 190:209–210.